



Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Quercus suber* (Qsu)

Common Name: Cork oak

Species Description

- Evergreen
- Short stemmed wide spreading tree
- Distinctive cork bark
- Leathery grey-green foliage with an entire margin of wavy teeth
- Yellow drooping [catkin](#)-type flowers in spring
- Acorns are infrequently produced

Height and width

15 metres tall by 15 metres wide

Species origin

Spain/Portugal

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 70\text{m}^3$
- Useful in urban parks for its interesting bark and historical connections
- Could be used as a street tree in conjunction with a secondary, faster growing street species

Use considerations

- Suitable for all areas of the ACT climate
- High frost tolerance to minus 7 degrees Celsius and high drought tolerance; the most drought-resistant of all the oaks
- Grows well in most soils, from gravelly soils to good loams
- [Long lived](#)
- Slow growing
- Low flammability
- Acorns are attractive to possums and may be a nuisance in pedestrian areas, but they are produced infrequently
- Solar access may be a problem due evergreen leaves

Examples in Canberra

Torres and Vancouver Streets, Red Hill (mixed with *Quercus ilex*); Parnell Road, Duntroon and the National Arboretum Canberra (Cork Oak Plantation)

Availability

May need to be grown from seed

